

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 03292 152142Z
ACTION ARA-10

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 OES-02 EB-04
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O 152123Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4993

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3292

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, DR
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ RECEIVED ME THIS MORNING AT MY REQUEST. I HAD INDICATED TO HIM WHEN I MADE THE REQUEST YESTERDAY THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF MY VISIT WAS TO OBTAIN HIS VIEWS ON THE CURRENT ELECTORAL UNCERTAINTY TO ASSIST ME IN RESPONDING TO WASHINGTON'S REQUEST FOR MY ASSESSMENT OF IT. WE ALSO DISCUSSED FISHING/MARITIME BOUNDARY AND TEXTILE EXPORT RESTRAINT NEGOTIATIONS (SEPTELS).

2. JIMENEZ EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE CURRENT UNCERTAINTY BUT WAS HOPEFUL THAT A SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER. HE INDICATED THAT HE MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE PRESIDENT. I EMPHASIZED TO HIM THAT THE CONTINUED DELAY IN CERTIFYING THE ELECTION RESULTS, THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING PERSONNEL SHIFTS AT THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD AND THE POLICE DETENTIONS AND QUESTIONING OF JCE PERSONNEL HAD INTENSIFIED STRONG SUSPICIONS WITHIN THE USG (AS WELL AS AMONG DOMINICANS) THAT EFFORTS WERE AFOOT TO SUBVERT THE ELECTORAL OUTCOME. I ADDED THAT
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PAGE 02 SANTO 03292 152142Z

I WOULD PROBABLY RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS SHORTLY TO EXPRESS USG CONCERNS TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER. JIMENEZ RESPONDED CRYPTICALLY THAT THE CURRENT CHALLENGES TO THE ELECTORAL RESULTS WERE AKIN TO A GIANT'S COMPLAINING ABOUT BEING KNOCKED DOWN BY A DWARF, IMPLYING THAT THE PARTIDO REFORMISTA HAD NO ONE TO BLAME BUT ITSELF.

3. I TOLD JIMENEZ ABOUT PICHARDO'S REPRESENTATIONS IN WASHINGTON (STATE 140319) AND OUTLINED THE POINTS MADE BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL IN RESPONSE TO PICHARDO'S APPROACH. (JIMENEZ HAD BEEN UNAWARE OF THIS NIVAR/PICHARDO PLOY.) I REEMPHASIZED THAT ANY ACTION TO NEGATE THE ELECTORAL OUTCOME WOULD BE VIEWED WITH DEEP SKEPTICISM IN INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES AND THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE DR WOULD BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED IF THE RESULTS OF WHAT WE CONSIDERED A FREE ELECTION--AND DESCRIBED BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER HIMSELF AS A CLEAN ELECTION--WERE OVERTURNED.

4. JIMENEZ LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND INDICATED HE SHARED MISGIVINGS I HAD EXPRESSED ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL PROMPTLY RELAY OUR CONVERSATION TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER, WHICH SHOULD LAY GROUNDWORK FOR MY APPROACH TO PRESIDENT. ON RETURNING FROM VISIT WITH JIMENEZ, I REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT AT HIS EARLIEST CONVENIENCE, DURING WHICH I INTEND TO REPEAT POINTS MADE TO JIMENEZ (INCLUDING THOSE IN STATE 152080 WHICH ARRIVED IN INTERIM).
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